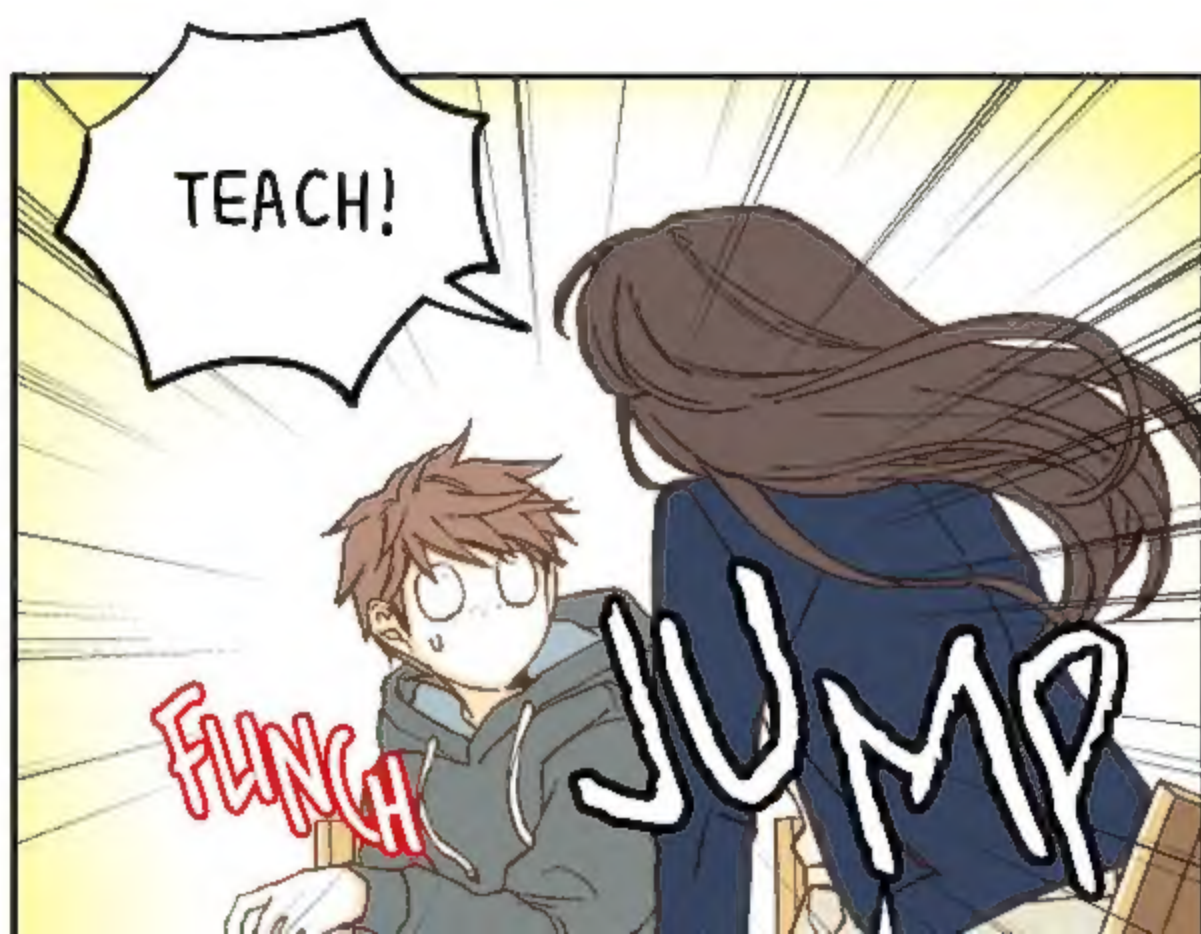






ONE MINUTE
LEFT.

IT'S TIME
TO WRAP IT UP,
YOU TWO.

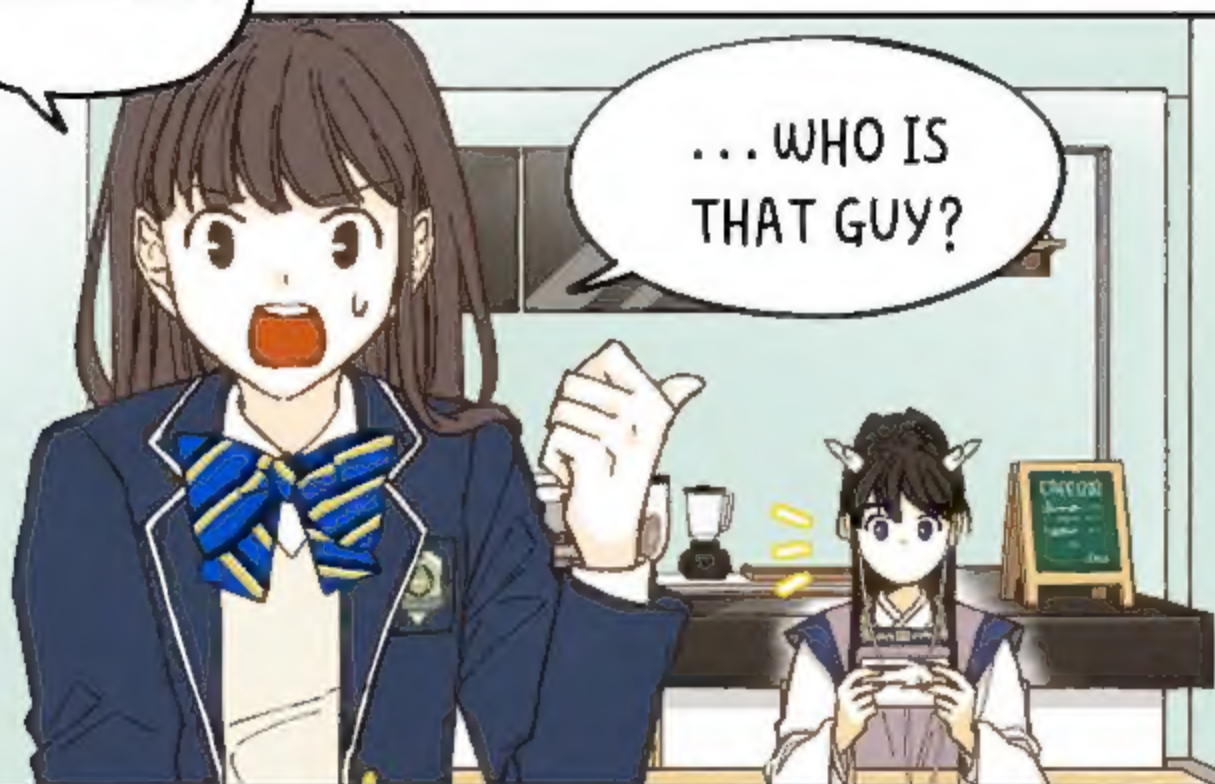




SOMETHING'S
BEEN BUGGING ME
THIS WHOLE
TIME!

TELL US...

...WHO IS
THAT GUY?





UM...

WELL,
HE'S...

... MY NEW STUDENT.

OH,
WE HEARD.

WE KNOW YOU



WE KNOW YOU
TOOK ON A PENNILESS
DRAMA STUDENT
FROM CHEONGHAK.

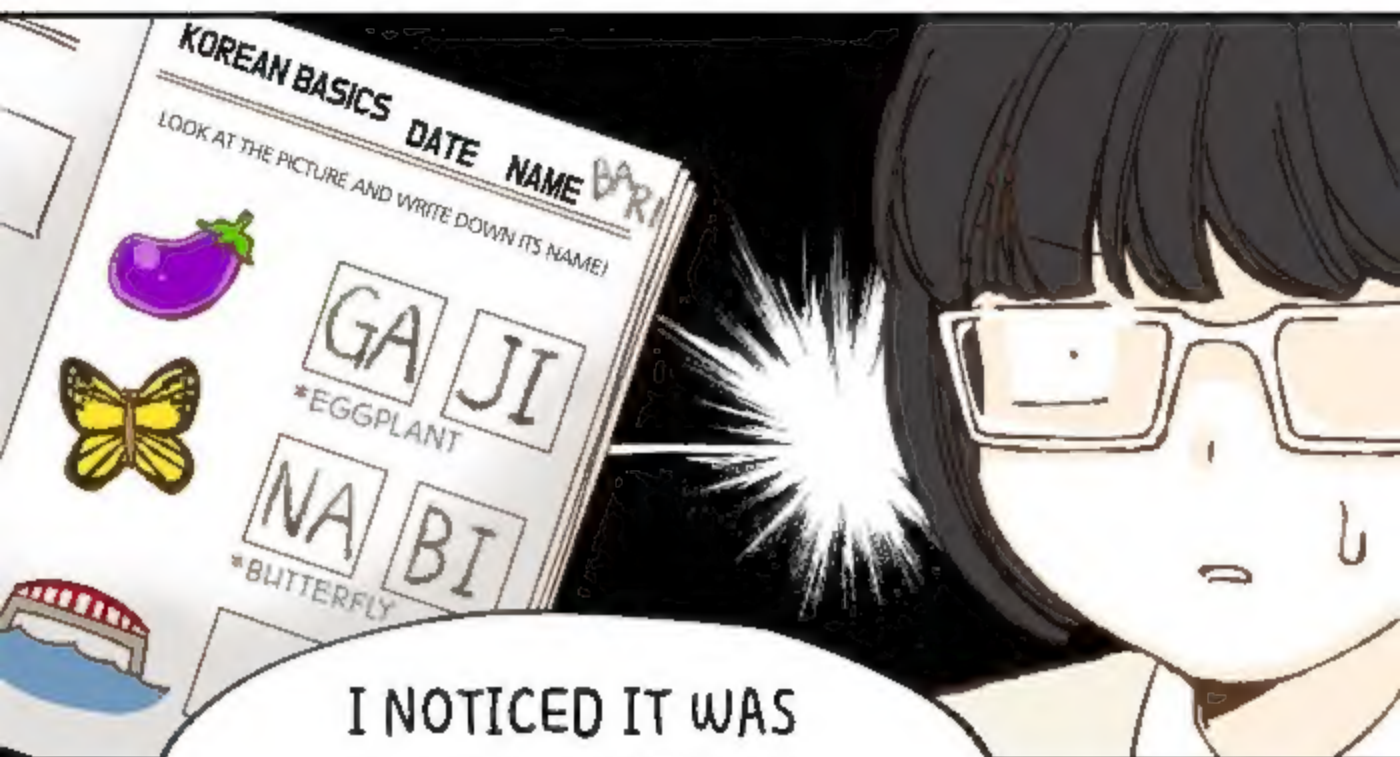
IT'S CRAZY HOW
FAST NEWS TRAVELS IN
THIS NEIGHBORHOOD!



SO THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WAS CURIOUS
ABOUT.

I HAD
A LOOK JUST
NOW...





I NOTICED IT WAS
A WORKSHEET FOR
LITTLE KIDS.



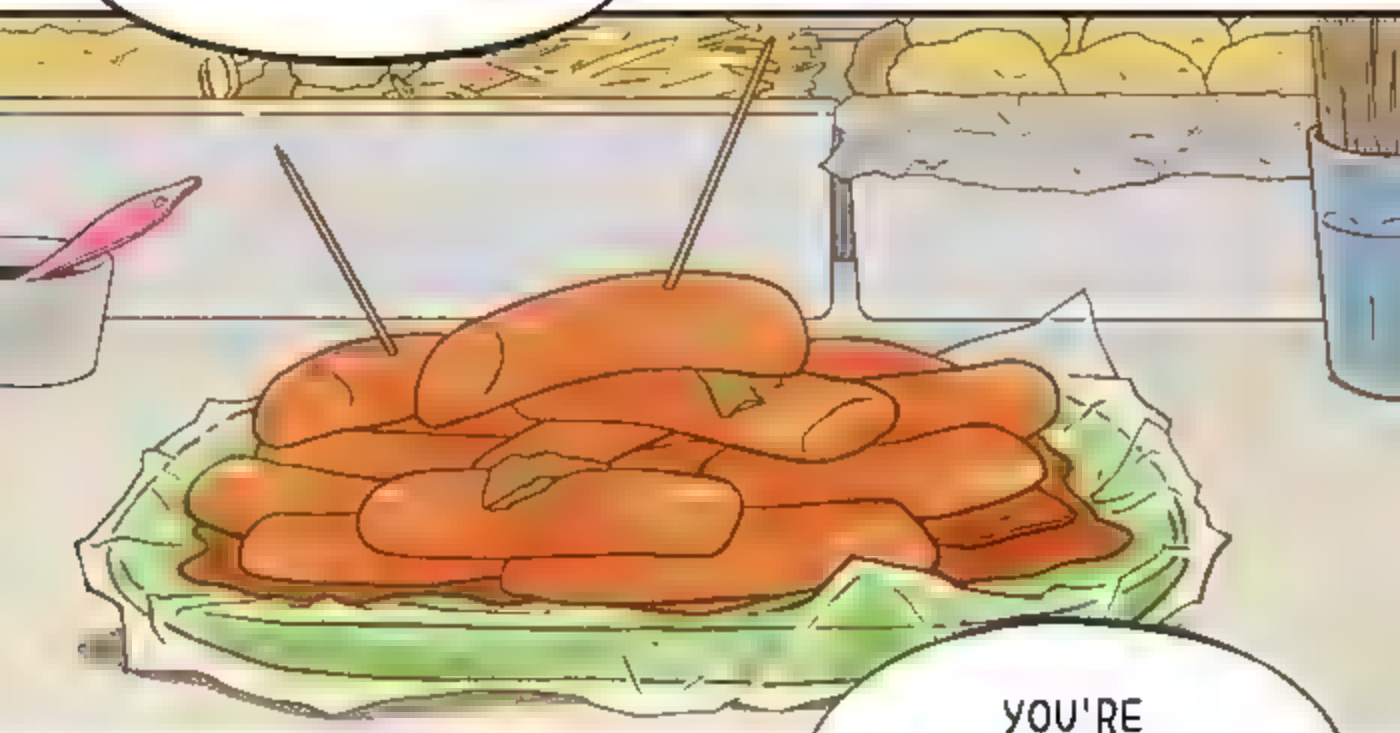


HOW TO BECOME A DRAGON

The title is rendered in a playful, hand-drawn style. 'HOW' and 'TO BECOME' are in a simple blue font. 'A DRAGON' is in a larger, more ornate font with a repeating geometric pattern. A small, stylized dragon head is integrated into the letter 'D' of 'DRAGON', and a small, stylized dragon tail is integrated into the letter 'N'.

- EPISODE 9 -

YOU'RE 18?



YOU'RE
THE SAME AGE
AS WE ARE!

NO, I'M TWO
THOUSAND--

NO, NO,
YOU'RE 18!





OKAY,
THEN LET'S DROP
THE FORMALITIES!





I'M HK. HK CHOI.



AND THIS IS
YULIA.

YULIA HAN,
AT YOUR SERVICE.



BARI IS
MY NAME!

IT HAS BEEN MANY
MOONS INDEED
SINCE I'VE HAD
THE FORTUNE OF
ACQUIRING NEW
FRIENDS.



AND NOW THAT WE'VE
SALLIED FORTH TOGETHER ON
THIS SCHOLASTIC JOURNEY UNDER
THE SAME MENTOR,

LET US SUPPORT
EACH OTHER UNTIL
THE END OF OUR
TRAVELS!







HE DOESN'T
HAVE A CELL PHONE.

HUH?

YOU DON'T HAVE
A PHONE?

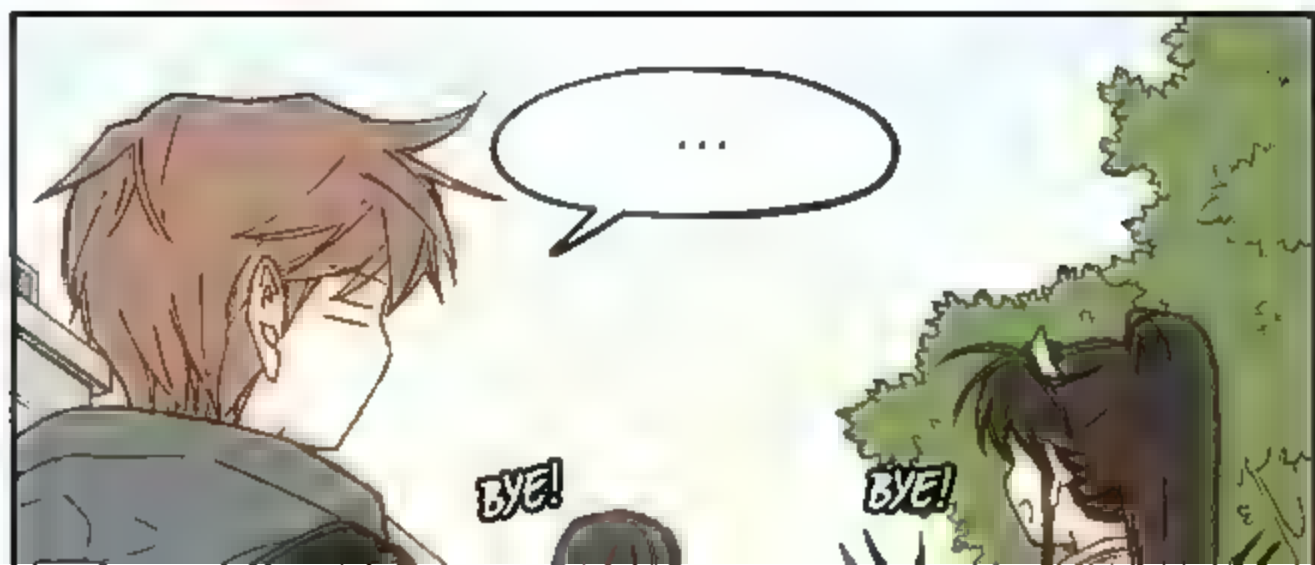


HE MUST REALLY BE
STRUGGLING
FINANCIALLY.

THAT'S SO COOL.
I WAS GONNA GET
RID OF MINE WHEN
I BECAME A SENIOR.



HES SO FAST!



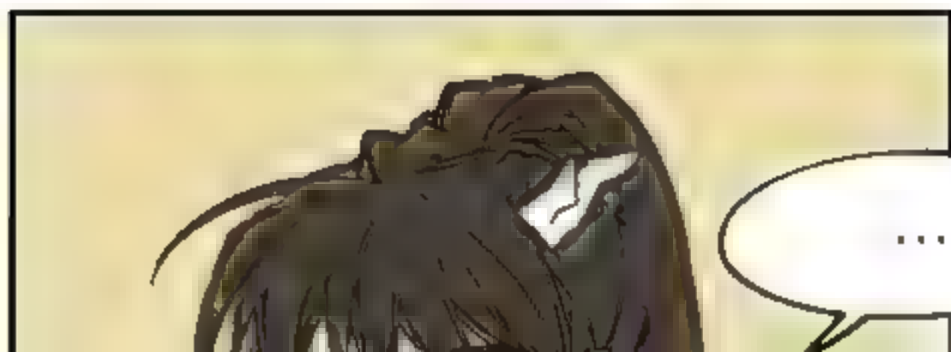


WHY ARE YOU
LOOKING AT ME
LIKE THAT?

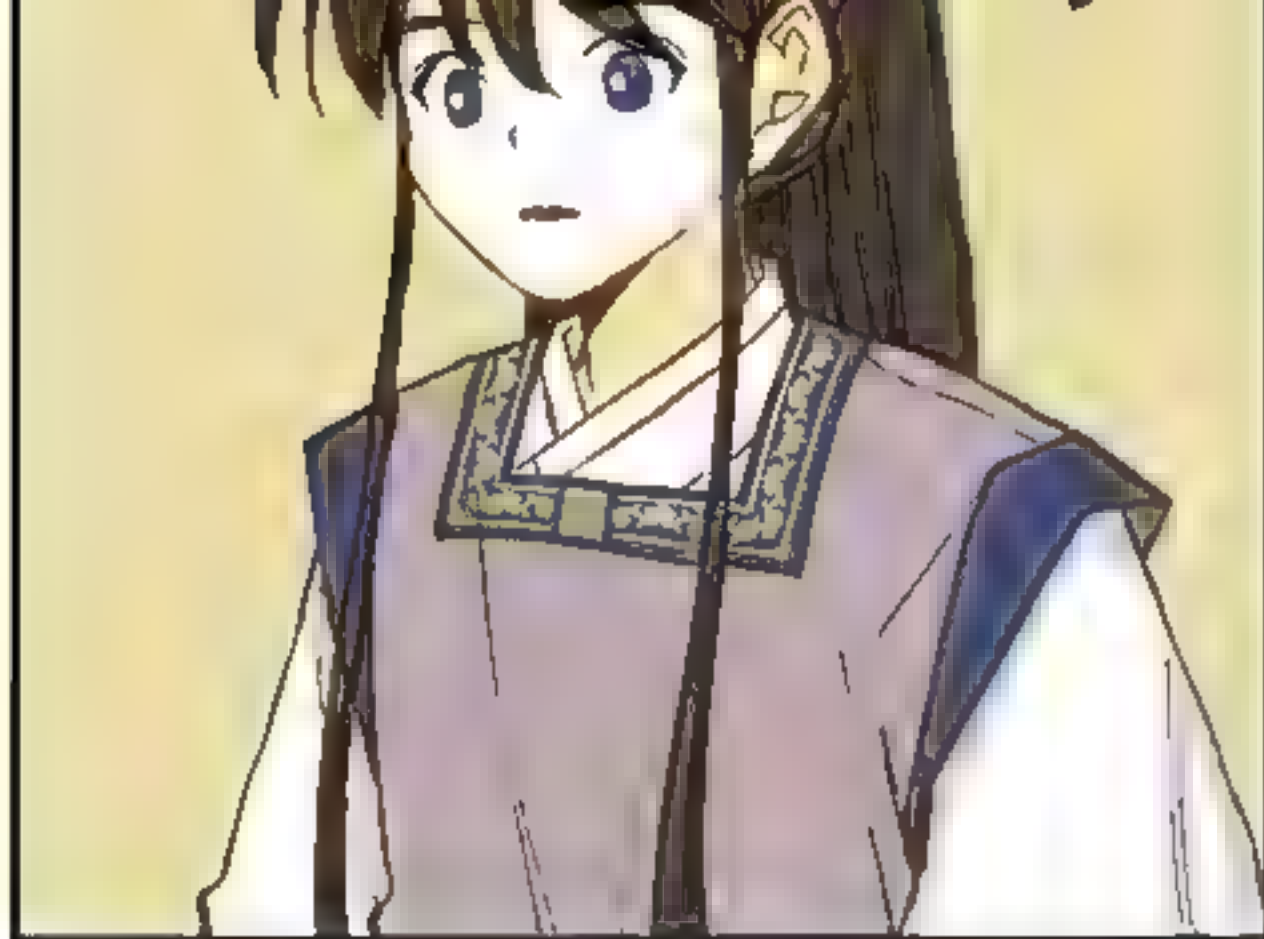
WELL, I THOUGHT
YOU HATED ALL HUMANS
BECAUSE YOU HAVE A
GRUDGE AGAINST THEM.



BUT YOU GET
ALONG WITH THEM
REALLY WELL.



...



IT'S TRUE
I DO HOLD
A GRUDGE...





... AND THERE WAS
A TIME WHEN I WANTED
TO TAKE MY ANGER OUT
ON EVERY HUMAN
BEING I SAW.

BUT BEFORE THAT
UNFORTUNATE DAY...

A character with long dark hair in a traditional white and blue kimono stands on a rocky outcrop, looking out over a misty, mountainous landscape. A small white fox-like creature is visible on the left. The scene is framed by a horizontal line.

...I WAS ON
QUITE GOOD TERMS
WITH HUMANS.

A character in traditional Japanese clothing is shown from the chest up, looking out over a misty landscape. The scene is framed by a horizontal line.

MOST OF THE PEOPLE
I MET WERE THOSE WHO





...SO I BECAME
FRIENDS WITH A
NUMBER OF THEM.



EVEN
MR. KIM...

HE WAS
MY FRIEND
AS WELL.



I THOUGHT
HE ACCIDENTALLY
STUMBLED INTO YOUR PATH
ON THE DAY YOU WERE
ASCENDING INTO

ASCENDING INTO
THE SKY.

NO, WE SAW
EACH OTHER OFTEN
WHILE I WAS
TRAINING.

SO YOU PRETENDED TO
BE A PERSON ALL THAT
TIME AND HE DISCOVERED
THE TRUTH ON THAT DAY?





OH, HE KNEW
THAT I WAS
AN IMOOGI,

AND THAT
I WOULD ASCEND TO
BECOME A DRAGON
VERY SOON.

ON THAT
FATEFUL DAY...

RUSTLE...

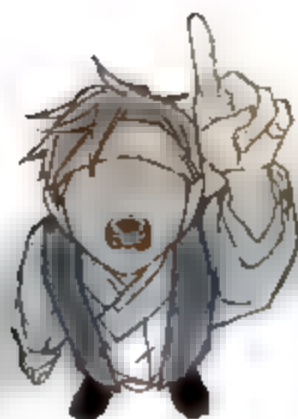
...I'M CERTAIN
HE KNEW IT
WAS ME.

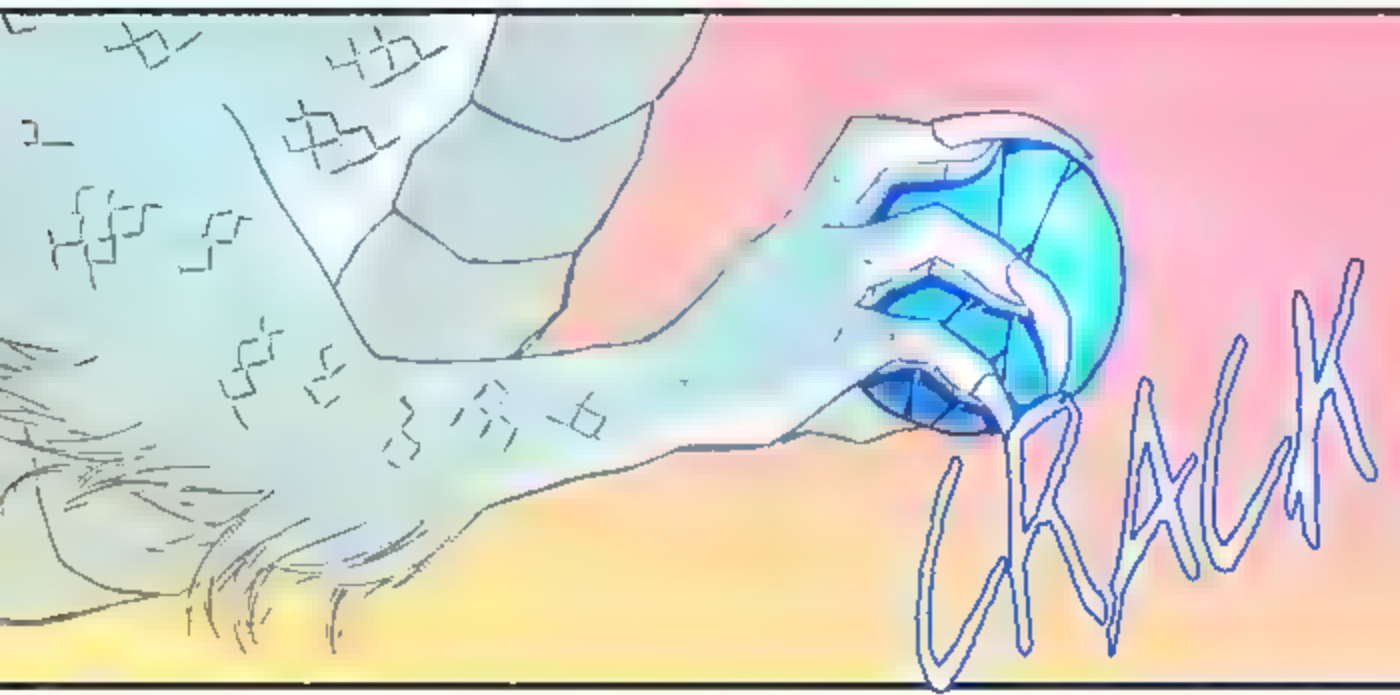
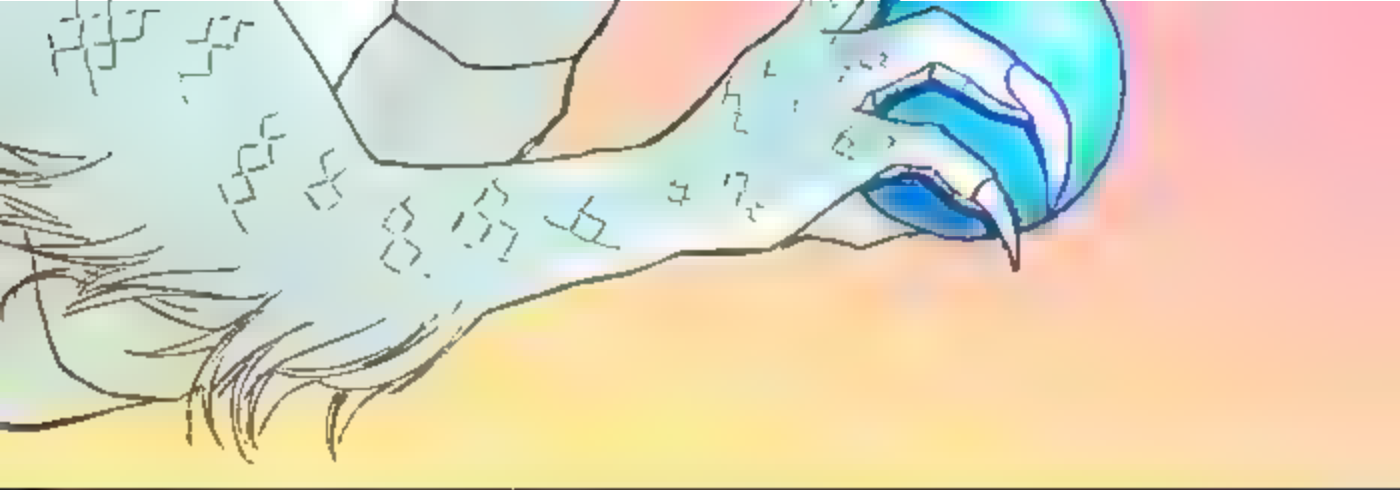


AND HE ALSO
MUST'VE KNOWN...

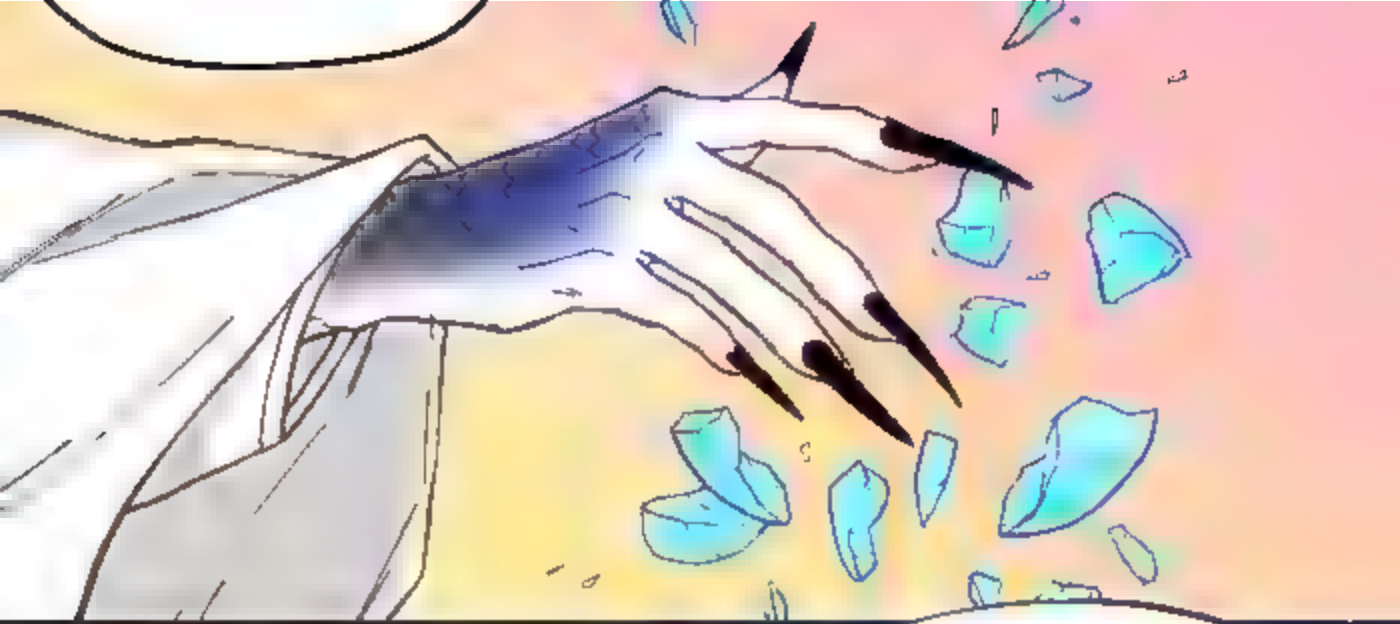
... THAT HE MUSTN'T
SAY THOSE WORDS.

"A SNAKE!"





THERE'S
NO WAY...



... HE COULDN'T
HAVE KNOWN THAT.

SO WHY... ?







... WHAT A
FREAKING
BASTARD!

I THOUGHT
THE WHOLE THING
WAS AN ACCIDENT,

BUT HE DID IT
ON PURPOSE!



AND IT GOES
BEYOND THAT.

HE DID IT JUST TO
SCREW YOU OVER!
WHAT A DICKHEAD!



AND IT'S NOT
LIKE HE GOT ANYTHING
OUT OF IT!

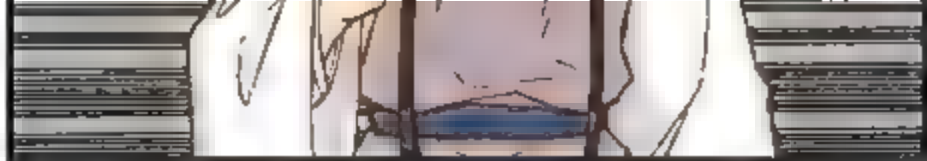
IT SOUNDS LIKE
HE COULDN'T STAND TO
SEE YOU MOVE ONTO GREATER
THINGS. AND YOU
CALLED THIS GUY
A FRIEND? WHAT AN
ABSOLUTE DOUCHE!



UM...

...HEY,
YOUNG...







I-I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU CARED
SO MUCH ABOUT ME!

I THOUGHT YOU
WANTED TO GET RID
OF ME BECAUSE I'M
SUCH A NUISANCE...

WAAH!

FLINCH



YOU EVEN
SPOKE ILL ABOUT
YOUR ANCESTOR---
A TRULY DEPRAVED
ACT---

TO SOOTHE
YOUR DISTRAUGHT
STUDENT!

U
A DEPRAVED
ACT...?
U U



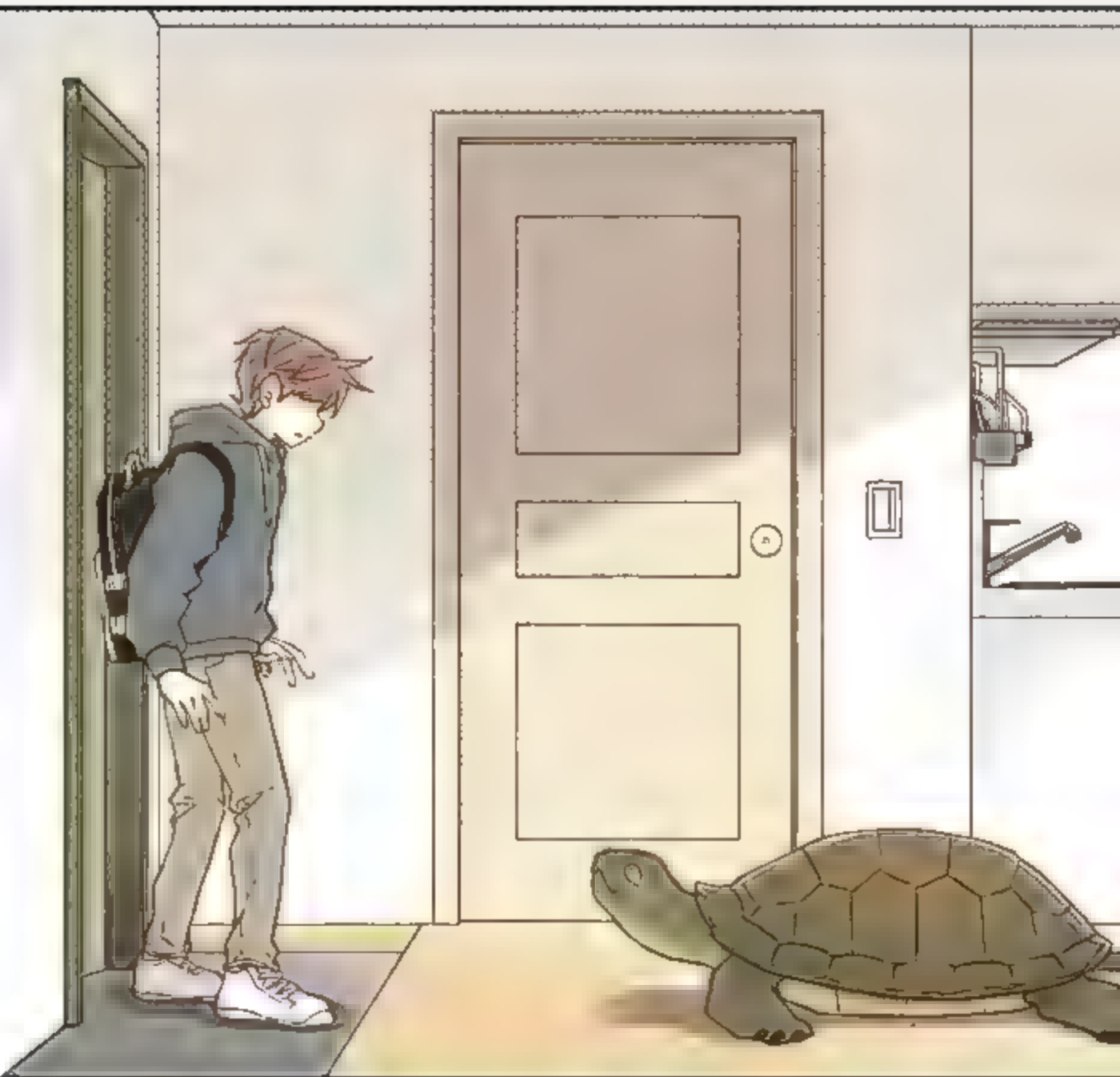
OKAY, OKAY,
STOP CRYING
AND COME

INSIDE.

THE ENTIRE
NEIGHBORHOOD IS
GONNA HEAR YOU...

LORD BARI.

...



LORD BARI.

LONG TIME NO SEE.

OH, IT'S YOU...!

WHAT BRINGS
YOU HERE?



I'M HERE
TO INFORM YOU THAT
THE MIDTERM EXAM FOR
THE NAKDONG RIVER
DRAGON EXAM IS
ALMOST UPON US.

WHAT...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
MIDTERM?

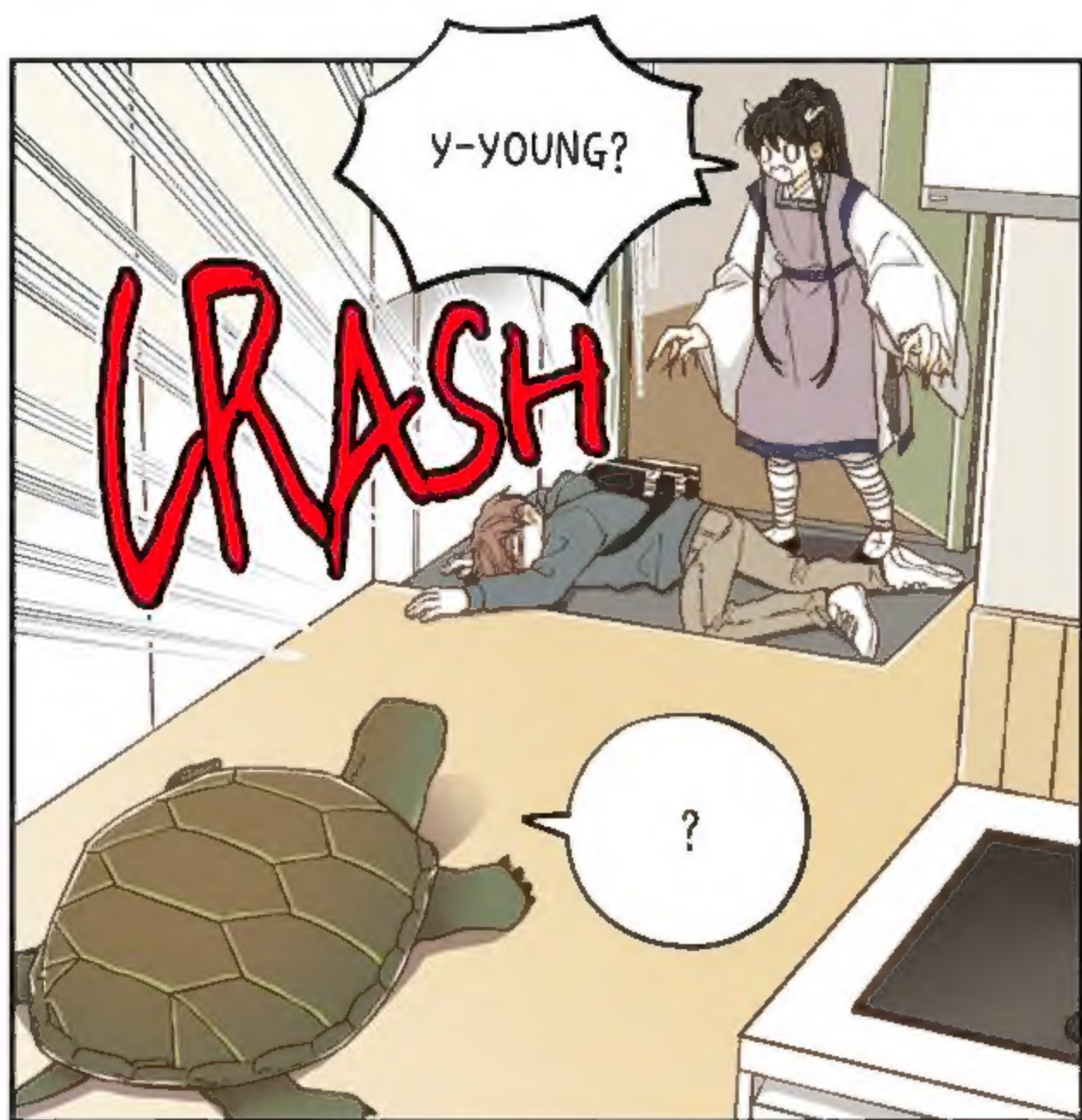
WOBBLE

NO ONE EVER
TOLD ME THAT
BEFORE...

CHEONRYONG MADE
THE DECISION IN HASTE
BECAUSE THERE WERE
SO MANY APPLICANTS.

I SEE...







YOUNG!

WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
GET UP!

YOU KNOW...

I...



...I REALLY
CAN'T STAND
REPTILES...